

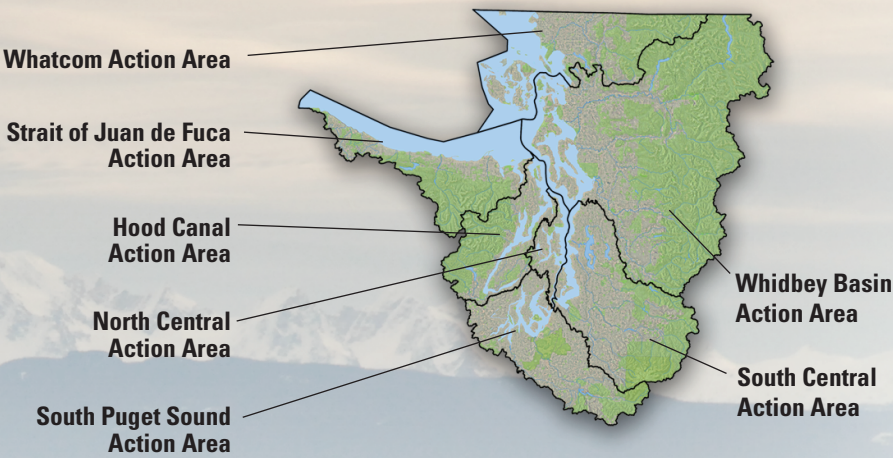
Puget Sound’s natural beauty and biological richness make it a national treasure. However, Puget Sound is in trouble – water pollution, lost and damaged habitat, and more have degraded the Sound’s health, decimated native species, and threatened human health and the regional quality of life.

The Puget Sound Partnership (PSP) was created in 2007 by the Governor and Legislature to recover Puget Sound. The Partnership is mandated to: 1) establish science-based recovery priorities, 2) manage performance toward recovery goals, 3) engage and enable partners, and 4) advance priority actions (protection, restoration, and pollution prevention). PSP leads the regional recovery effort for thousands of partners involved in the work – including statutory boards, state and federal agencies, tribes, local government, citizen groups, businesses, non-governmental organizations, as well as Puget Sound’s 4.3 million residents.

The Partnership works with a diverse array of dedicated partners to fulfill actions set forth in the Action Agenda. This is a summary of recent progress.

Puget Sound Quick Facts

- Puget Sound has 2,500 miles of marine shoreline.
- The Sound helps drive \$20 billion of economic activity in Washington State.
 - » Seattle/Tacoma (combined) is the second largest US port for container traffic.
 - » Commercial fishing, including shellfish, accounts for annual revenue of \$3.2 billion.
 - » Over 2,500 cargo vessels travel in Puget Sound each year.
 - » Nearly 80 percent of statewide revenues generated from tourism and travel come from the Puget Sound region.
- The Puget Sound region encompasses 12 counties and 64%of the state’s population.
- There are 115 cities in the Puget Sound region, including four with populations of over 100,000. (Seattle, Tacoma, Everett, Bellevue).
- There are 19 major watersheds in the Puget Sound basin.
- The region’s 2.1 million acres of state-owned submerged saltwater lands are home to 211 fish species, 100 sea bird species and 13 types of marine mammals.
- There are 68 state parks and 8 national parks, wildlife refuges, forests and other public lands that border Puget Sound.
- Washington is the largest producer of farmed shellfish in the United States and a leader in the production of naturally growing shellfish. A majority of this shellfish comes from Puget Sound
- Puget Sound is home to 19 federally-recognized tribes; 17 of these are treaty Indian tribes



1

SETTING PRIORITIES FOR PUGET SOUND

The **Action Agenda** provides a comprehensive, prioritized roadmap for ecosystem recovery. Adopted in 2008, its scientific foundation improves certainty of actions and investments.



☒ **Strategic Science Program – Increasing Ecosystem Knowledge**

PROGRESS: The Partnership has adopted a Strategic Science Plan that describes a regional vision for building ecosystem knowledge, synthesizing scientific work, identifying priority information needs, and fostering new science capacity. This program is focused on improving certainty for decision makers

☒ **Sharing What We Know – *Puget Sound Science Update***

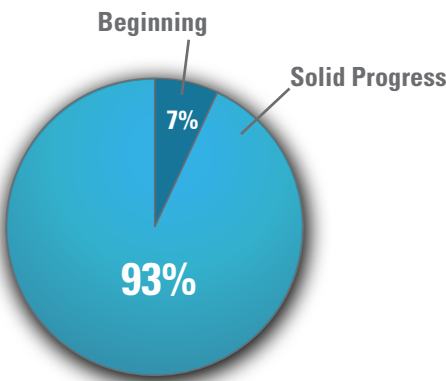
PROGRESS: Compiled and peer-reviewed by prominent regional scientists, the *Puget Sound Science Update* provides key, up-to-date information for partners and policy-makers. Content focuses on ecosystem conditions, desired outcomes and measures, ecosystem impacts and recovery strategy effectiveness.

2

MANAGE PERFORMANCE TOWARD RECOVERY GOALS

For the first time, a robust performance management system is being developed for Puget Sound to track progress, evaluate effectiveness of Action Agenda strategies and monitor ecosystem health.

Solid progress on 93% of top-ranked near term actions



☒ **Vital Signs To Track Puget Sound Health**

PROGRESS: 20 indicators were selected from over 700 via a rigorous scientific process. Indicators include 12 natural science, six human health and well-being, and two for Action Agenda implementation.

☒ **Integrated Ecosystem Monitoring**

PROGRESS: The Partnership has launched an effort to develop the first-ever comprehensive ecosystem monitoring system for Puget Sound, designed to integrate many existing efforts and fill critical information gaps.

IMPLEMENTING PRIORITY ACTIONS

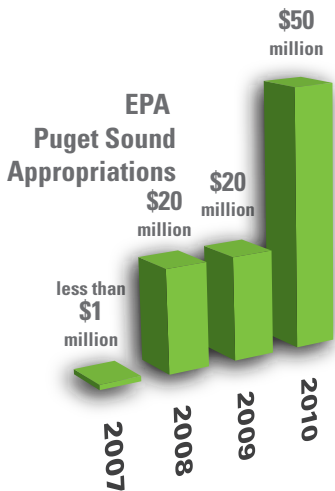
The Partnership provides strategic support to advance Action Agenda implementation and assist partners in fulfilling their commitments. Activities include:

- funding for partners
- regional leadership on tough issues
- public engagement
- technical assistance
- coordination and resources
- analysis, policy and legislation



☑ **Sound Investments = Progress and Jobs**

Since 2008, there have been 614 active restoration and protection projects around Puget Sound. Projects represent over \$460 million from local, state and federal sources, and an estimated 15,640 jobs.



☑ **Significant Partner Projects Include**

Key sponsors are listed; most projects involve multiple partners and funding sources.

- Marine Drive and Upper Smuggler’s Slough - Lummi Nation is restoring over 230 acres of tidal estuary and enhancing nearly 5 miles of existing channel habitat
- Wiley Slough – Skagit River Cooperative and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) restored 160 acres of tidal marsh in the Skagit Estuary
- Carpenter Creek – Kitsap county is restoring 26 acres of estuarine and nearshore habitat
- Derelict Gear – The Northwest Straits Commission removed 90% of derelict fishing nets from high priority areas of Puget Sound
- Potlach – a local, state and federal partnership, this project will provide sewer services to Potlatch area in southern Hood Canal
- Nisqually River – The Nisqually National Wildlife refuge, partnering with the Nisqually Indian Tribe and Ducks Unlimited, restored 762 acres of estuary in Thurston County
- Elwha River – Dam removal will open up 70 miles of pristine habitat in Clallam County by the National Park Service
- Qwulloom – Tulalip Tribes are restoring 350 acres of estuary and opening 16 miles of stream habitat in Snohomish County

☑ **Watershed Characterizations – Key Information for Decision-Makers**

PROGRESS: The Partnership, with Ecology (ECY) and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, is developing comprehensive watershed-level information for local planners to use for guiding restoration, protection and development. Work will be completed in 2011.

☑ **Mitigation Reform – In-Lieu-Fee Program**

PROGRESS: A pilot in-lieu-fee program is being developed for the Puget Sound region in Pierce and Thurston counties. Rather than build a separate mitigation project, developers with unavoidable, permitted impacts to protected habitats can pay a fee to local government which is then invested in local restoration priorities.

☑ **Floodplain Management – Maintaining Public Safety and Critical Habitat**

PROGRESS: The Partnership is catalyzing a collaborative effort to develop regional levee vegetation standards that meet safety requirements while also providing functioning, suitable habitat for salmon and other species.

☑ **Tackling Stormwater at a Regional Level**

- **Storm water Needs Assessment**
Completed in 2010, the Stormwater Needs Assessment calculates stormwater management costs for urban areas and identifies costs for retrofits and other critical needs. Phase 2 will produce a regional vision and financing plan.
- **Low Impact Development (LID)**
A recognized leader in LID, the Partnership provides guidance, training and technical assistance to local governments and building professionals. Since 2009, the Puget Sound Partnership has partnered with WSU to train 550 individuals, and is publishing a LID local regulation guidebook.

☑ **Reducing Copper in Local Waters**

PROGRESS: Washington is the first state in the nation to phase out copper brake pads. Other states are now following our lead (SB 6557). Copper is toxic to fish, the Department of Ecology estimates as much as 318,000 pounds of copper is washed into local waters every year.

☑ **Other Puget Sound Legislative Successes**

The legislature and many partners helped achieve key advances for Puget Sound, consistent with the Governor’s goal of ecosystem recovery.

- Permanent Funding for Neah Bay tug for oil spill prevention and response (SB 5344)
- Aligning investments from PS Scientific Research Account with Action Agenda (HB 1997)
- Regional Transfer of Development Rights program and incentives for high density urban development (HB 1172 & 2538)
- Marine Spatial Planning framework (SB 6350)
- Derelict fishing and shellfish gear (HB 2593)
- No net loss of ecological function standard for shoreline management (HB 1653)
- Ruckelshaus Center work to resolve conflicts between agriculture and Critical Areas Ordinances (SB 6520)
- Funding for Puget Sound restoration

☑ **Strengthening Oil Spill Prevention and Response**

PROGRESS: In 2010, the Puget Sound Partnership convened a diverse 25-member work group to identify priorities for improving the state’s oil spill prevention and response. Interim recommendations include funding for ECY and WDFW programs, and strengthening response capabilities. Final report is due June 2011.

☑ **Protecting Shorelines**

PROGRESS: The Partnership is working with other state agencies to provide training, funding and assistance to local jurisdictions for updating their Shoreline Master Programs (SMP) by 2014. This is the first major update of the Shoreline Management Act since it was adopted in 1972.

☑ **Continuing Progress for Salmon Recovery**

PROGRESS: The Partnership is the state agency responsible for implementing the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Plan, which is now integrated into the Action Agenda. This includes supporting priority regulatory policies (e.g. SMPs, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Nation Flood Inspection Program Biological Opinion, & Levee Vegetation Maintenance), steelhead recovery, hatchery management, monitoring and adaptive management.

☑ **Engaging Puget Sound Citizens**

PROGRESS: The Partnership’s Stewardship Program employs a science-based framework to motivate broad-scale practices among residents and small businesses to reduce pollution and protect shorelines. It targets specific practices that can cumulatively benefit Puget Sound, such as yard care, septic system maintenance, and shoreline landscaping.

- Won a 5-year \$6 million grant from the Environmental Protection Agency to lead the regional effort.
- Built and manage ECO Net, a network of nearly 500 education and outreach partners sharing resources and helping to mobilize Puget Sound citizens.
- Launched **Puget Sound Starts Here**, in partnership with the Department of Ecology, the STORM coalition of municipalities, and ECO-Net, using television, radio, print, social media, and a cast of thousands to reach the Sound’s 4.3 million residents.

